

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multiplexer for packetizing a plurality of encoded data streams, the multiplexer comprising: means for inserting a time stamp required for the reproduction of the encoded data streams into these packets; means for multiplexing said packets;

means for detecting the number of skipped frames from the encoded data stream; and

means for generating a time stamp which is to be inserted into the packets of the encoded data stream on the basis of the detected number of skipped frames.

2. The multiplexer according to claim 1, wherein the number of skipped frames is detected on the basis of the time difference between a current frame of the encoded data stream and a past frames prior to the current frame.

3. The multiplexer according to claim 2, wherein said means for detecting detects a first local time stamp added to the current frame of the encoded data stream and a second local time stamp added to the past frame prior to the current frame.

4. The multiplexer according to claim 1, wherein said means for detecting further includes means for determining whether or not the encoded data stream includes frame skips; and the number of skipped frame are detected only in the case where said means for determining determines that the data streams include

media streams so as to output transmission streams; and
means for transmitting the transmission streams to
a transmission channel.

7. The multimedia communication apparatus
5 according to claim 6, wherein said means for detecting
detects the number of skipped frames on the basis of
the time difference between a current frame of the
encoded media streams and the past frames prior to the
current frame.

10 8. The multimedia communication apparatus
according to claim 7, wherein said means for detecting
detects the time difference on the basis of a first
local time stamp added to the current frame of the
encoded media streams and a second local time stamp
15 added to the past frame prior to the current frame.

9. The multimedia communication apparatus
according to claim 6, wherein said means for detecting
further comprises means for determining whether or not
the encoded media stream include a frame skip and the
20 number of skipped frames is detected only in the case
where the means for determining determines that the
frame skip is included.

10. A multimedia communication apparatus
comprising:

25 first encode means for encoding video stream
in accordance with an encode scheme regulated with
an MPEG-4 to output an encoded video stream;

packetizing means for packetizing respectively
5 the encoded video stream and the encoded media stream
output from said first and second encode means;

10 first time stamp generation means for generating a
first time stamp on the basis of the number of skipped
frames detected by said detecting means and inserting
the first time stamp into a packet header of the
encoded video stream;

20 multiplexing means for outputting transmission
streams by multiplexing packets of the encoded video
stream and encoded media stream generated by said
packetizing means.

11. A method of generating a time stamp which is
25 applied to a multiplexer, the method comprising the
steps of: packetizing a plurality of encoded data
streams, inserting a time stamp required for the

reproduction of the encoded data streams into the packets; multiplexing the packets,

detecting the number of skipped frames from the encoded data streams; and

5 providing a time stamp which is to be inserted into the packets of the encoded data streams on the basis of the number of skipped frames which have been detected.

10 12. The method for generating a time stamp according to claim 11, wherein the step of detecting the number of skipped frame includes the steps of:

 determining a time difference between a current frame of the encoded information data streams and a past frame prior to the current frame; and

15 detecting the number of skipped frames on the basis of the determined time difference.

 13. The method for generating a time stamp according to claim 12, wherein the step of determining a time difference in the step of detecting the number
20 of skipped frame determines the time difference on the basis of a first local time stamp added to the current frame of the encoded data streams, and a second local time stamp added to the past frame prior to the current frame.

25 14. The method for generating a time stamp according to claim 11, wherein the step of detecting the number of skipped frame further includes the steps of:

determining whether or not the encoded data streams include frame skips; and

detecting the number of skipped frame only in the case where determination is made that the frame skips are included.

15. A method for generating a time stamp which is applied to a multiplexer, the method comprising the steps of: packetizing video stream encoded with an encode scheme regulated with MPEG-4 and encoded media stream having time correlation with the video stream, inserting a time stamp required for the reproduction of the encoded video stream into the packets; multiplexing the packets;

detecting the number of skipped frames from the encoded video stream; and

providing a time stamp for inserting packets of the video stream on the basis of the number of skipped frames which have been detected.